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Date: 11/03/78 By: 029 U.S. OFFICIALS ONLYCENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP  
INTELLIGENCE REPORT~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COUNTRY Spain

DATE: 25X1X6

INFO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT Denial of Reports Affirming the Reorganization  
of the International Brigades

DIST. 19 November 1946

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PAGES 4  
SUPPLEMENT

25X1X6 ORIGIN [REDACTED]

On 11/03/78, [REDACTED] advised that the  
Confidential Source [REDACTED] from the  
letter of 11/03/78 from the  
Director of Central Intelligence to the  
Archives of the United States.

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1. Jose Riquelme, described as head of the International Brigades and as a person who maintains good relations with the Giral Government, is known chiefly as an instrument of the Communists. As of 6 October 1946, he was making efforts to have himself appointed representative of the Giral Government in Belgium, but had been unsuccessful. He has no official contact with the Government; he is acquainted with War Minister Hernandez Sarabia, but the latter does not hold him in high regard.

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2. According to [REDACTED] General Nadal, reported to be an important leader of the International Brigades, as are General Modesto and Colonel Lister, is unknown in Spanish republican professional military circles.\* Modesto is

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\* [REDACTED] Comment: The only person named Nadal whom it has been possible to identify is an employee of the Spanish Consulate in Toulouse. He is known to the French police in that area, and is held in very low esteem, being

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known as a Communist military leader; he attends many meetings held abroad as one of the most prominent military leaders of the Spanish Communist organizations and is an outstanding military instructor of the Communists. Lister is also well known as a Communist military chief and, furthermore, is believed to be an agent in the service of the Russians. He works closely with General Modesto, but is not of the same military caliber as the latter. [REDACTED] comments that it is strange that no mention is made of General Gordon in connection with the alleged brigades, since Gordon is considered the most capable professional military personality among the Communists.

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3. Colonel Paz, who has been described as chief of the brigades in the Toulouse region, is not considered sufficiently capable to be a military leader. He and Lister direct Communist policy with regard to the Galician autonomists. He is in contact with the ARAC (Association Republicaine des Anciens Combattants - a pro-Communist organization). For his work he used the address: 11 rue Alexandre-Fourtanier, Toulouse, which is the present headquarters of former Spanish FFI's.

4. The true activities of Antonio Gamboa, who was reported to be brigades inspector in the Pyrenees frontier zone, are not known, but [REDACTED] asserts that he is in close contact with Colonel Paz, with whom he is seen frequently at Cafe de la Paix in Toulouse.

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25X1X6 5. [REDACTED] knows of no real military training camps in the frontier region, the existence of which has been reported, but states that lumber camps are located near the border where young men are sent to prepare themselves for guerrilla action inside Spain. Recruits are divided into two groups: the more highly educated are instructed in the use of maps, plans and compasses, and are selected as guides and leaders of groups and expeditions, while the others are taught chiefly the use of explosives, especially dynamite. This preparation is carried on simultaneously with the regular work in the lumber camps.

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\* Comment continued

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considered absolutely unreliable and dishonest. An [REDACTED] asserts that this Nadal is actually in the pay of the Franquist intelligence service, and, although he [REDACTED] is inclined to be pro-Franco. There is no doubt that this person is the frequently mentioned "General Nadal".

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Comment: General Juan Hernandez Sarabia, War Minister in the Giral Government, reportedly stated that General Gordon was a colonel of artillery in the Spanish Republican Army during the Spanish Civil War, and was Under Secretary of Armament in the last cabinet of Negrin. At the end of the Civil War, according to Sarabia, he went to Russia where he served as a general in the Russian Army. On his return to France, he asked Sarabia to enroll him as a general in the Spanish Republican Army and Sarabia agreed to do so. When he received the identification card which is given to officers under the discipline of the Giral Government, Gordon asked that a note be added to the card stating that he had been given a diplomatic mission, so that the card would be in agreement with his diplomatic passport which had been drawn up in Russia. Sarabia consented to grant the request. Gordon was in Paris by mid-June 1946. According to [REDACTED], at the end of World War II, Gordon travelled through various European capitals in the Russian zone of influence, attending meetings and congresses. He stayed for some time in Prague, where he broadcast to the Spanish people. An information bulletin issued on 1 October by the Spanish military intelligence service (Segunda Seccion bis) states that Gordon's full name is Antonio Gordon Garcia and that he went to Russia in 1939. The bulletin states further that he lives in Toulouse, that he is considered a great military tactician, and that he is a friend of General Tito, with whom he spent some time in Yugoslavia.

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In addition to the instruction given in the lumber camps, the Communists rather frequently give lectures on military preparation at cell meetings and at other sessions called especially for this purpose.

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6. [REDACTED] confirms reports to the effect that all Communist party militants are obliged to attend party cell meetings which usually are held every week. Nearly all Spanish Communists have French Communist Party membership cards and attend French cell meetings as well as their own. [REDACTED] can find no 25X1X6 evidence to support statements that a salary of 10 francs a day is paid to the most faithful members.

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7. According to [REDACTED] there is no conclusive evidence that the brigades exist as an effective and organized force. He states that if, for the sake of argument, it is granted that they do exist, the previously quoted membership of 15,000 to 20,000 men, 70% of whom were said to be Spaniards, is exaggerated. On this basis, the number of Spanish participants would be 10,500 to 14,000. [REDACTED] affirms that when the UNE (Union Nacional Espanola) organized the guerrillas, the maximum number enlisted by this Communist-dominated organization, which has been dissolved, was 8,000. Subsequently, the guerrillas of the UNE were discharged. Many escaped Communist control, since they belonged to organizations other than the Communist Party. Many others were sent into Spain, and still others obtained work outside of the Communist-controlled lumber camps. Today the only Spaniards belonging to the guerrilla groups are Communists. In spite of the general discharge order issued by the UNE, the organization of cadres continues under the direction of the same leaders. The most active guerrilla cadres of the Department of Hautes Pyrenees are located at the lumber camps at Artigues and Caderolas.\* These groups are controlled by the central Communist bureau of Bagneres de Bigorre.

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8. Through various Spanish veterans associations such as the Asociacion de Voluntarios de Espana Republicana,\*\* the Asociacion de Veteranos de la Brigadas Internacionales, and the Asociacion de Veteranos Espanoles de la FFI, the Spanish Communist Party was reported to maintain contact with similar organizations in other countries. [REDACTED] states that of the three, the last-named maintains closest relations with similar groups abroad. The Asociacion de Veteranos de las Brigadas Internacionales is attached to the ARAC. 25X1X6
9. The Asociacion de Veteranos Espanoles de la FFI\*\*\* recently held a congress for its definite constitution. Its officers are: President, General Luis Fernandez; Vice-Presidents, General Cesar Cornello and Gili y Ferañ; Secretary-General, Colonel Acevedo; Chief of Propaganda, Sanchez Boxa; Communist Party

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Comments

\*Caderolas is unidentified.

\*\*The following information of September 1946 on the Association des Anciens Volontaires de l'Espagne Republicaine, which may be the same organization 25X1X6 as the Asociacion de Voluntarios de Espana Republicana, is from a [REDACTED]

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The Association des Anciens Volontaires de l'Espagne Republicaine is attached to the ARAC. The honorary president of the organization is Andre Marty, a member of the central committee of the French Communist Party, and headquarters of the association in Toulouse are at 2 rue d'Austerlitz. The organization, together with the ARAC, has endeavored to secure official recognition by the French Government of the status of former members of the International Brigades and assistance to widows and orphans of these combattants.

\*\*\*This organization frequently is referred to as the Amicale des Anciens Combattants et FFI Espagnols.

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agent, Valladores. [REDACTED] was unable to establish any connection between this organization and any brigades organization. Luis Fernandez stated that the organization was created to take care of problems arising from legislation concerning veterans of the FFI.

10. It has been reported that the JSU (Juventud Socialista Unificada - Communist youth organization) was the principal instrument used by the Communists in the organization of the Brigades. [REDACTED] has no knowledge of this role of the JSU. However, he agrees that the JSU is the vanguard of all activities of the Communists, at least externally. He considers Ignacio Gallego, Fernando Claudin, and Jose Ferran the most important members of the JSU. [REDACTED] says that Serafin Aliaga, who has been mentioned as one of the outstanding members of the JSU, is a new Communist acquisition: until recently he was a director of the FIJL (Federacion Iberica de Juventudes Libertarias). The JSU has always maintained the closest and most cordial relations with the UJVF (Union des Jeunes Republicaines de France); the latter has organized dances and other functions in order to collect funds for the guerrilla struggle in Spain. The JSU representative who maintains relations with the presidents of the Soviet and Yugoslav youth federations is Ignacio Gallego, who is also a member of the directing committee of the world Democratic Youth Federation, as a representative of Spanish youth. Serafin Aliaga is a member of the council of the world Federation. 25X1X6
11. General Cesar Blazques in the past was in charge of maintaining liaison between the Spanish Communists and the FTP (Francs Tireurs et Partisans - a pro-Communist resistance group active during the occupation of France). As a result of the friendship which developed in the clandestine struggle for the liberation of France, good relations are still maintained with such men as Major Lassere by the Spanish Communists. Lt. Colonel Gravas is said to be a Communist military leader in Toulouse. 25X1X6

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